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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-eighth session
4–29 June 2018
Agenda item 6
Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session

Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Committee

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session, together with the required documentation.

2. In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

3. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative mandates and will be completed at the end of the current session in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Proposed programme budget for the year 2020 (in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/266);

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Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for the year 2020: part one: plan outline and part two: programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information (in fascicle form) (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 58/269, 59/275, 62/224 and 72/266)

(b) Evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (General Assembly resolution 62/224)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Public Information (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Management (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of Legal Affairs (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme (General Assembly resolution 72/9)

4. Coordination questions:

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2018 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 59/275)

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-ninth session.

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Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Benjamin **Sieberns** (Germany)

I. Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) on 19 April 2018 and its substantive session from 4 to 29 June 2018 at Headquarters. It held 13 formal meetings and numerous informal and "informal informal" consultations, as well as briefings.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the fifty-eighth session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2016-2017;
   (b) Programme planning;
   (c) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session.

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Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/2018/L.2/Rev.1), in which it was stated that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee had been invited to select the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness" (A/72/809) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) thereon (A/72/809/Add.1) for consideration at its fifty-eighth session.

Programme of work

4. At the same meeting, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the annotated provisional agenda (E/AC.51/2018/1/Rev.1) and the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2018/L.1/Rev.1) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 June, the Committee discussed the possibility of a briefing by the Secretariat on matters pertaining to the expected impact of the United Nations management reform on the work of the Committee. A number of delegations expressed support for the proposal, especially in the broader context of the processes under way that were linked to changes in the development system and the peace and security architecture. Some delegations further observed that, because many delegations came from their capitals, such a briefing would be useful in terms of understanding how the changes to the budget cycle approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/266 would affect the work of the Committee and the preparation of the relevant documentation. Some delegations raised questions concerning the content of and modalities for the briefing.

6. As to the modalities, the Vice-Chair (Eastern European States), speaking on behalf of the Bureau, explained that the Bureau intended to have an informal briefing, in keeping with past practice, which would be focused on technical aspects, such as the process for the preparation of documents and the programme of work, insofar as how those would affect the Committee's work. A delegation explained that briefings, in particular if conducted informally, were aimed at providing information and not intended to require a decision by the Committee.

7. A group of delegations raised the issue of including in the agenda an item pertaining to programme issues, in particular with regard to the new strategic focus and changes in the programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which had been endorsed at the fifty-first session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in May 2018. A delegation urged the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary documentation regarding the change in the programme plan would be submitted to the Committee for its consideration at the current session.

8. A delegation voiced disagreement with the explanation given by the Secretariat that the new strategic focus of ECA implied a change in mandate and thus required consideration and approval by the Economic and Social Council before the changes to the programme plan could be submitted to the Committee. That delegation stressed that there was no change in mandate and therefore a review by the Committee was required. A number of delegations, seeking further information on procedures followed in past cases, requested that specific examples of precedents be provided. Another delegation requested an in-depth study of the matter.

9. At the same meeting, pending further information from the Secretariat and decisions on the two issues raised, the Committee adopted a programme of work for the first two days of the session, on the understanding that it would later consider the programme of work for the subsequent days.

10. Informal briefings were given by the Secretary of the Committee, on organizational matters; by the Assistant-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, on evaluation issues; and by the Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, on the new programme budget cycle and the Committee and on changes to the ECA programme plan.

B. Election of officers

11. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Yanko Yordanov (Bulgaria) as Vice-Chair and Benjamin Sieberns (Germany) as Rapporteur for the fifty-eighth session.

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Luiz Feldman (Brazil) as Vice-Chair for the session.

13. At its 10th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Hae Yun Park (Republic of Korea) as Chair for the session.

14. At its 12th meeting, on 22 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Vusumuzi Ntonga (Zimbabwe) as Vice-Chair for the session.

15. Accordingly, the members of the Bureau for the fifty-eighth session of the Committee were:

Chair:
Hae Yun Park (Republic of Korea)

Vice-Chairs:
Luiz Feldman (Brazil)
Yanko Yordanov (Bulgaria)
Vusumuzi Ntonga (Zimbabwe)

Rapporteur:
Benjamin Sieberns (Germany)

C. Attendance

16. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented on the Committee:

Argentina	Haiti
Bangladesh	India
Belarus	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Botswana	Italy
Brazil	Japan
Bulgaria	Pakistan
Burkina Faso	Peru

Cameroon	Portugal
Chad	Republic of Korea
Chile	Republic of Moldova
China	Russian Federation
Cuba	Senegal
Egypt	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Eritrea	United Republic of Tanzania
France	United States of America
Germany	Zimbabwe

17. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Afghanistan	Mexico
Australia	Morocco
Iraq	Norway
Jamaica	Papua New Guinea
Lebanon	Poland

18. Also present at the session were the Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, the Secretary of CEB and other senior officials of the Secretariat. A representative of the Joint Inspection Unit, Sukai Prom-Jackson, was also present.

19. In addition to in-room representation, the following reports were discussed with relevant representatives through videoconference: the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness (A/72/809); the annual overview report of CEB for 2017 (E/2018/48); and the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implement tion of recommendations on the programme evaluations of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/AC.51/2018/2), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (E/AC.51/2018/4), the International Trade Centre (E/AC.51/2018/8), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/AC.51/2018/7), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/AC.51/2018/3) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (E/AC.51/2018/6).

D. Documentation

20. The list of documents before the Committee at its fifty-eighth session is set out in the annex to the present report.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

21. At the 13th meeting, on 29 June, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee (E/AC.51/2018/L.4 and addenda) and the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session (E/AC.51/2018/L.3).

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report.

23. Also at the same meeting, the delegation of Bangladesh made remarks. Notably, while expressing thanks to the Committee members, in particular Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy and the United States of America, for cooperating in the adoption of the report on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of UNHCR, the delegation emphasized that the return of refugees and forcibly displaced persons in safety and dignity to their country of origin was the most desirable and sustainable solution to any refugee situation and also stressed the need for Member States to cooperate with UNHCR in that regard.

24. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session and decided that it would be updated in the light of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2018 session and by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

25. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Haiti, the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, Brazil, China, Japan, Bulgaria, Italy, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Pakistan.

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its fifty-eighth session

A/73/77	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2016-2017
E/AC.51/2018/6	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
E/AC.51/2018/5 and E/AC.51/2018/5/Corr.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
E/AC.51/2018/4	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
E/AC.51/2018/8	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the International Trade Centre
E/AC.51/2018/7	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
E/AC.51/2018/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
E/AC.51/2018/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
E/2018/48	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2017 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2018/9	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 59/275)
A/72/809	Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled: "Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness"
and	
A/72/809/Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled: "Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness"

E/AC.51/2018/L.3	Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2018/L.4 and addenda	Draft report of the Committee
E/AC.51/2018/INF/1	List of delegations

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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Benjamin **Sieberns** (Germany)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the International Trade Centre

1. At its 8th meeting, on 7 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the International Trade Centre (ITC) (E/AC.51/2018/8).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with ITC representatives, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations welcomed the efforts by ITC to implement the recommendations and to increase its effectiveness. At the same time, they expressed concern that not all recommendations had been fully implemented and sought clarification from ITC on the recommendations that remained partially implemented.

4. As regards recommendation 1, which focused on monitoring and reporting on the implementation of ITC action plans formulated in response to the 2014 independent evaluation of ITC, as well as the 2015 OIOS evaluation, clarification was sought on the factors hindering ITC from adapting the structure of its Evaluation Unit to a fully independent unit, and the need to promptly complete the structural change was emphasized.

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5. Regarding recommendation 2, which addressed the need for ITC to adopt a more holistic, data-driven approach to strategic planning and budgeting, a delegation expressed its agreement with the OIOS conclusion that unearmarked resources would better allow ITC to focus on its corporate priorities rather than donor priorities. As regards the new ITC strategic plan 2018–2021, a delegation expressed support for the inclusion of strengthening trade and investment support institutions (para. 17 (c)) as one of the six focus areas, which was of particular importance to developing countries. In that connection, the delegation remarked on the importance of enhancing the inclusion of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in global value chains. As regards the focus area of inclusive and green trade (para. 17 (e)), the delegation indicated that the term "green trade" had not been agreed in any multilateral forum and suggested that it be replaced with the term "inclusive trade", in line with the agreed terminology of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. Regarding recommendation 3, on revising the project approval protocol, a delegation welcomed the establishment of the new project portal and an online project management tool.

7. As regards the implementation of recommendation 5, on institutionalizing the cross-cutting issues of gender, youth and the environment into projects, a delegation expressed support for the activities of ITC in those areas and welcomed, in particular, the recent efforts of ITC through its "SheTrades" campaign.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the programme evaluation of ITC.**

9. **The Committee welcomed the efforts made by ITC to advance the promotion of women, youth and the environment in its projects.**

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Rapporteur: Mr. Benjamin **Sieberns** (Germany)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. At its 8th meeting, on 7 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (E/AC.51/2018/4).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of UNCTAD, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations recognized and appreciated the efforts of UNCTAD in fully implementing five recommendations (recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7) and partially implementing two (recommendations 3 and 6).

4. Delegations welcomed the quality of the work conducted by UNCTAD and emphasized the role of UNCTAD in encouraging intergovernmental dialogue, aid for trade and promoting economic development. In that regard, delegations highlighted the particular importance of paying attention to the least developed countries, middle-income countries and countries with economies in transition and their integration into

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the global economy. UNCTAD was encouraged to continue to improve its work in that regard and to contribute its specialized expertise in trade and development unavailable elsewhere in the development pillar.

5. It was stressed that a strong research and analysis function was essential to the contributions of UNCTAD towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and appreciation was expressed for the publications of UNCTAD, including its flagship reports, the *Trade and Development Report* and the *World Investment Report*. A delegation remarked that, in its recent role as Chair of the Trade and Development Board, it could attest to the efficiency and effectiveness of the research and analysis function of UNCTAD.

6. A delegation stressed the need for UNCTAD to be provided with the appropriate budgetary and political support. Another delegation echoed that comment and expressed concern at the decreasing funds allotted to assistance for trade and highlighted its importance for a number of countries. A delegation called for a balance between donor countries and partner countries when it came to earmarked contributions.

7. As regards recommendation 1, on strengthening results-based management within UNCTAD, a delegation expressed the view that, while the recommendation was considered implemented, there was still room for improvement, in particular with regard to integrating results-based management into the research pillar. While the delegation acknowledged that it might be difficult to apply the results-based management mindset to research, it stressed that UNCTAD should nevertheless be encouraged to do more in that respect, particularly as it constituted a way to more effectively connect research activities to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. A number of delegations expressed concern at the delay in the implementation of recommendation 3, on developing and implementing quality assurance frameworks in all divisions, and sought clarification on the reason for the delay. Concern was expressed that the lack of statistical oversight and quality assurance had resulted in a discrepancy in data, whereby erroneously interpreted data had been included in the UNCTAD report "Trade misinvoicing in primary commodities in developing countries: the cases of Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia" issued in July 2016, and it was stressed that the framework should be adopted as a matter of priority to ensure consistent and correct standards across the system and to avoid a repeat of that error. Information was also sought on the status of the United Nations Statistics Quality Assurance Framework, which, according to information available at the time of issuance of the OIOS report, had been expected to be approved in March 2018. In that regard, information was sought as to whether the delay in its adoption was due to a delay on the part of UNCTAD.

9. Several delegations emphasized the importance of mainstreaming gender considerations into issues of trade and development and therefore urged UNCTAD to continue its efforts to fully implement recommendation 6, on increasing gender mainstreaming in research and analysis products. A delegation highlighted the ongoing work of UNCTAD in gender mainstreaming through the development of a trade and gender toolkit, which was expected to help in providing technical support in that area. A delegation referred to the Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment, adopted in Buenos Aires in December 2017, by which, for the first time in the history of the World Trade Organization, its members and observers endorsed a collective initiative to increase the participation of women in trade.

10. A delegation recalled that the Committee, at its fifty-fifth session, in 2015, had recalled that the work of UNCTAD was based on three pillars, namely consensus

building, research and analysis, and technical assistance, and that two of those, namely consensus building and technical assistance, had not been evaluated. In that context, the Committee had recommended that OIOS address the remaining pillars in the next evaluation report. The importance of technical assistance was echoed by another delegation, which emphasized the need for technical cooperation in the areas of investment policy, competition and international trade policy.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the programme evaluation of UNCTAD.**

12. **The Committee noted with appreciation the implementation of five of the recommendations made in the programme evaluation of UNCTAD and recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNCTAD to continue to strengthen its institutional orientation to results-based management in the research and analysis pillar.**

13. **The Committee underlined the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective within its research and analysis products.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNCTAD to further implement a statistics quality assurance framework in order to improve statistical oversight and quality assurance.**

15. **The Committee recalled that the work of UNCTAD was based on three pillars, namely consensus building, research and analysis, and technical assistance, two of which, namely consensus building and technical assistance, had not been evaluated in the OIOS report. In that context, the Committee noted the importance of all three pillars and emphasized that the importance of technical assistance and consensus building for the fulfilment of the UNCTAD mandate should be recognized.**

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Rapporteur: Mr. Benjamin **Sieberns** (Germany)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. At its 6th meeting, on 6 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (E/AC.51/2018/2).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of UN-Habitat, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the report and for the positive overall assessment therein that UN-Habitat had implemented six of the seven recommendations reflected in the evaluation report (recommendations 1–5 and 7) and had partially implemented the remaining recommendation (recommendation 6). Delegations welcomed the efforts of UN-Habitat to implement the recommendations despite the administrative and financial constraints referenced in the report. Several delegations expressed their concurrence with the conclusions and recommendations contained in the evaluation report and underlined the importance of continued efforts by UN-Habitat to continue implementing the recommendations, especially

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recommendation 6, on strengthening information and knowledge management, which had been only partially implemented.

4. Delegations underscored the important role of UN-Habitat in implementing the New Urban Agenda and key aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals and expressed their support for the work undertaken by UN-Habitat, including in the innovative development of cities with minimal impact on the environment. A delegation expressed the view that UN-Habitat should operate as the focal point for the New Urban Agenda and work with others, including governmental and private sector partners, and fill niches where it had a competitive edge. The view was also expressed that, in 40 years of work, UN-Habitat had gathered important expertise, which should be drawn upon, including in the context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. With regard to recommendation 2, on finalizing an accountability framework, a delegation stressed the importance of continuing to improve risk management and defining wider strategies of action and accountability issues in the organization. The delegation also highlighted the importance of accountability vis-à-vis Governments of countries where UN-Habitat was carrying out its programmes.

6. Several delegations highlighted the work of regional and country offices of UN-Habitat as key vehicles for cultivating and maintaining partnerships with governmental and non-governmental actors and for building synergies among different actors, critical to the achievement of the UN-Habitat mandate, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the face of resource constraints. With regard to regional offices, the need for clarity and transparency on any changes made to those offices was highlighted.

7. As concerns recommendation 3, on developing a strategic plan for each regional office, and the information, contained in the report, that UN-Habitat had developed and issued regional strategies for the four regions, one delegation noted that Eastern Europe was not among the four regions and emphasized that UN-Habitat should attend to the needs of all countries, even if they were not currently covered by one of the four UN-Habitat regional offices. A delegation sought clarification on the linking of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and "delivering as one" (para. 31) and stressed that the two were not one concept. Further information was also sought on the reference to "developing as one" (footnote 3).

8. Regarding recommendation 6, on strengthening information and knowledge management, it was noted that a plan of action had been established, and information was sought on what measures had been and would be undertaken to fully implement it. A delegation acknowledged that it was a difficult period for UN-Habitat and stressed the need to ensure that its secretariat was strengthened from a financial and human resources point of view to enable it to implement its mandates, particularly in connection with the creation of a Knowledge Management Unit.

9. As concerns recommendation 7, on the finalization of resource mobilization and partnership strategies, several delegations, while welcoming the significant improvements made overall, stressed that resource mobilization must be strengthened and expressed concern at the lack of mechanisms to successfully manage partnerships and at the almost complete reliance on extrabudgetary resources. In that regard, it was stressed that the lack of predictable funding put in danger accountability and the ability of Member States to guide operational norms and standards.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session on the programme evaluation of UN-Habitat (see E/AC.51/2015/2).**

11. **The Committee noted that, of the seven recommendations in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, six had been implemented and one had been partially implemented, commended UN-Habitat for the progress that it had made in implementing those recommendations and further encouraged UN-Habitat to continue to implement the outstanding recommendation.**

12. **The Committee expressed its expectation that the efforts currently under way, as described in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 72/226, to examine options for strengthening Member States' oversight of UN-Habitat would contribute to better risk management, increased accountability and more effective resource mobilization and partnership strategies.**

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Benjamin **Sieberns** (Germany)

Addendum

Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit
(*Item 5*)

Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness" (A/72/809) and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) thereon (A/72/809/Add.1).

2. The representative of the Joint Inspection Unit, Sukai Prom-Jackson, introduced the report of the Unit and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee. The Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report containing the comments of the Secretary-General and CEB and responded to questions raised.

Discussion

3. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, including for its comprehensiveness and frankness. Several delegations noted its usefulness in highlighting the added value of results-based management to organizational effectiveness within the United Nations, as well as in providing a comprehensive account of challenges and constraints in the implementation of results-based management, which included the challenges and negative effects of funding the United Nations development system from extrabudgetary resources. A delegation expressed that view that the report was focused only on 12 United Nations system organizations and was outdated in the light

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of the recent adoption of a resolution on the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

4. Appreciation was expressed for the analysis of lessons learned in the context of results-based management provided in the report. Interest was expressed in having further information on how those lessons were being applied by the United Nations system entities.

5. Questions were raised as to how the proposal by the Secretary-General for the repositioning of the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would affect results-based management mechanisms, and how the report was related to the most recently adopted resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. It was pointed out that context-specific results frameworks for implementing the 2030 Agenda would require dialogue with Member States.

6. Some delegations emphasized that clarity and transparency in interpreting intergovernmental mandates was crucial for results-based management and that governing bodies should have flexibility in deciding on the basis for its implementation.

7. Several delegations expressed support for the recommendations and in some cases agreed with their thrust. Some highlighted recommendation 7, by which inter-agency bodies working on accountability reforms were requested to conceptualize and develop a collective accountability framework that was fit for collective impact, as required for results-based management and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and emphasized its importance for collective accountability around common outcomes within the United Nations system and with development partners. Some delegations indicated that that was an important consideration for the Economic and Social Council. A delegation also pointed out that accountability systems varied according to the United Nations system organization concerned, meaning that one common model of accountability might not suit all. The potential role of the Secretary-General in that regard was questioned.

8. Concerning recommendation 2, regarding the establishment of a backbone support function to ensure that the vast range of innovations introduced in results-based management across the United Nations system was captured and supported, assessed for value and shared for adoption system-wide, a delegation noted that that must be done with the agreement of the respective executive boards.

9. Concerning the formulation of the recommendations, a view was expressed that they were too conceptual and theoretical. It was suggested that they should be more concise and practical to enable them to be implementable and understandable by the public at large.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee reaffirmed that one of its key mandates was to assist the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on coordination questions. In that regard, it recommended that the Assembly urge the Joint Inspection Unit to continue its efforts to introduce relevant reports to the Committee and give due consideration to the Committee's mandates when preparing its programme of work.**

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Results-based management in the United Nations development system: analysis of progress and policy effectiveness" (A/72/809) and that it encourage the Unit to continue to produce high-quality reports.**

12. **The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, bring to the attention of the Board the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for its consideration.**

13. **The Committee emphasized the need for the implementation of all the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit that had previously been endorsed by intergovernmental bodies and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to invite the executive heads of the participating organizations to continue to provide information to the relevant intergovernmental bodies on the status of implementation of the Unit's recommendations addressed to them.**

14. **The Committee recalled that results-based management must reflect intergovernmental mandates and, in that regard, underlined the need for transparency with regard to how those mandates were incorporated into results-based management frameworks.**

15. **The Committee underlined the importance of dialogue with Member States regarding the impacts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the repositioning of the United Nations development system on results-based management frameworks throughout the system.**

16. **The Committee emphasized that results-based management should focus on outcomes in the light of the risks inherent in focusing on outputs and requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to encourage the executive heads of the United Nations organizations to report systematically to their respective governing bodies on specific outcomes achieved in relation to the organizations' support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

17. **The Committee stressed that it was important for the organizations of the United Nations system to work on enhancing accountability and transparency, within their respective mandates and governance structures, and requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to encourage the organizations to continue to coordinate their work, to the extent possible, in enhancing their accountability frameworks in relation to their support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

1. At its 7th meeting, on 6 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) (E/AC.51/2018/5 and E/AC.51/2018/5/Corr.1).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of UN-Women, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the useful report produced by OIOS and its positive assessment that all four recommendations from the evaluation had been implemented, noting that the assessment was comprehensive and valuable. Appreciation was also voiced for the efforts of UN-Women in implementing the recommendations and, more broadly, for its contribution to the achievement of United Nations goals and objectives.

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4. A delegation commented on the important role of monitoring, evaluation and auditing in the work of UN-Women. A delegation also noted the added value of the work of OIOS, highlighting the quality of the programme evaluation and the usefulness of the subsequent recommendations. A delegation noted the electronic survey of a non-random sample of UN-Women staff used in the review methodology, which had yielded a response rate of 38 per cent and possibly encouraged more staff engagement.

5. Delegations expressed broad support for UN-Women, noting the important and central role that it played in the United Nations system in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. Delegations also commended UN-Women for the steps that it had taken to work and coordinate with its partners in the United Nations system to advance those goals. In that regard, a delegation noted that while cooperating, each partner had had to keep to its respective mandate in order to avoid duplication and provide support in accordance with its expertise. One delegation highlighted the important role of UN-Women in promoting the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as for mainstreaming the human rights of women and girls into the work of the United Nations as a whole. The delegation also commented that UN-Women had a unique added value in the United Nations system owing to its singular focus on gender equality as a basic human right, which had to be further strengthened and operationalized. It was emphasized that ensuring gender equality was essential for building inclusive societies and achieving sustainable development for all, leaving no woman or girl behind.

6. Several delegations welcomed the implementation of recommendation 2, in which UN-Women was requested to enhance the synergies between its normative and operational work. It was pointed out that although the recommendation had been implemented, UN-Women should consider additional ways to enhance synergies that went beyond better sharing of information and learning of lessons, as emphasized in the report. A question was raised as to whether the 2018 annual guidance note on UN-Women strategic notes (ibid., para. 21) could be considered as the latest step to enhance synergies and whether more remained to be done.

7. Several delegations welcomed the implementation of recommendation 3, in which UN-Women was requested to strengthen communication and coordination between its headquarters and field offices. It was noted that although the recommendation had been implemented, UN-Women could strengthen the implementation of that recommendation, as indicated in the report and in the related comments by UN-Women. One delegation emphasized that positive feedback on the recommendation had been received at the country level. A delegation highlighted the indivisible nature of the work of UN-Women, noting, as an example, how the country offices provided a different dimension to that work and how, had it not had its field presence, UN-Women could have become a glorified think tank of the Commission on the Status of Women.

8. Delegations welcomed the implementation of recommendation 4, in which UN-Women was requested to clarify complementarities with its United Nations partners in implementing its mandate. One delegation welcomed the finding contained in the report that the number of joint United Nations programmes that dealt with gender equality had increased by 28 per cent between 2015 and 2016, becoming the first area of concentration of joint programmes.

9. Some delegations expressed their appreciation for the field presence of UN-Women, noting the positive impact of programming initiatives at the regional level and the synergies between regional and country offices, and calling for the continued and enhanced presence of the Entity at the country level.

10. Several delegations called for continued support for UN-Women, including adequate resourcing. A delegation welcomed the finding from the report that the Entity's non-core resources had increased from $88 million in 2011 to $180 million in 2017, and expressed the view that it would be beneficial to be proactive in mobilizing more non-core resources. A delegation noted the composite mandate of UN-Women and emphasized that all parts of its mandate should receive equal attention and funding.

11. The progress of some countries in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women was highlighted. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the way in which UN-Women engaged in liaison with Governments and kept them apprised of developments, and recommended that UN-Women collaborate with other United Nations entities that dealt with gender equality to make gender a cross-cutting issue.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of UN-Women, and expressed its appreciation to OIOS for the review.**

13. **The Committee expressed its appreciation for the implementation of the recommendations of OIOS by UN-Women, which had improved coordination and enhanced mandate implementation, including at the country level where requested by the host country, thereby strengthening the linkages between the normative and operational work of UN-Women.**

14. **The Committee welcomed the improvements made in the implementation of the normative framework at the regional and country levels and the enhancement of mutual cooperation between headquarters and field offices.**

15. **The Committee underlined that it was important that UN-Women continue to provide technical advice and support to the United Nations system on mainstreaming a gender perspective into its work and continue to lead, coordinate and promote accountability of the United Nations system in its support for Member States, at their request, in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage UN-Women to continue to increase its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in order to enhance the implementation of its mandate.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 9th meeting, on 7 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (E/AC.51/2018/7).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with ECLAC representatives, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the OIOS report and supported the conclusions and recommendations contained therein. They recognized the efforts made by ECLAC to implement the evaluation recommendations, and welcomed the additional efforts by ECLAC, stressing that it should strive to reduce duplication and increase the impact of its work. A delegation commended ECLAC for the progress achieved, despite the resource challenges and pressures faced by the Commission.

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4. Several delegations underscored the importance of the work done by ECLAC for countries in the region, and its contribution to the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean. The efforts of ECLAC in support of policymaking in the region was highlighted by one delegation, which noted that ECLAC had celebrated its seventieth anniversary, and its work was recognized during the recent thirty-seventh session of the Commission, which was held in Havana, Cuba.

5. Delegations also welcomed the work done by ECLAC in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, noting in particular the support it had provided to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, and in that regard, ECLAC was encouraged to continue its work so that the Goals could be realized in the region.

6. A delegation expressed its country's long-standing support for ECLAC and remarked that the work and successes of ECLAC made it a reference for Latin America and the Caribbean and for other regional commissions. It further noted that ECLAC should serve as a model in the review of the development architecture that was to take place the following year. The delegation was also of the view that the notable successes of ECLAC called for strengthening the role of the regional commission, so as to bring greater effectiveness to its work, rather than for cutting its resources.

7. Regarding recommendation 2 on the development of a country-by-country engagement strategy, a delegation sought clarification on the inability of ECLAC to institute annual consultations with individual member States. Noting that the number of evaluations undertaken by ECLAC had increased, a delegation stressed the importance of setting up a separate evaluation unit in ECLAC to strengthen the monitoring and assessment of its work, and to conduct a systematic review of conference structures in particular.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the programme evaluation of ECLAC.**

9. **The Committee expressed its appreciation for the efforts of ECLAC to implement the recommendations and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECLAC to continue to focus on support to member States in order to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

10. **The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECLAC to continue implementing the recommendations and to work towards overcoming the challenges encountered in that regard.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 10th meeting, on 12 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (E/AC.51/2018/3).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with ESCAP representatives, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation to OIOS for the report on the triennial review. Delegations commended ESCAP for the measures taken to date to implement three of the four recommendations set out in the report and expressed appreciation for the commitment of ESCAP to fully implement the remaining recommendation on developing and implementing an outreach strategy (recommendation 3). The view was expressed that the strategy should be closely linked to the achievement of the

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2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to work on long-term measures to improve the regional commissions.

4. Delegations expressed their support for the work of ESCAP, acknowledging its important role in promoting regional integration and interconnectivity, fostering an inclusive regional dialogue and contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. One delegation recalled the recommendation made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session that emphasized that the focus of the initial evaluation report on research and analysis should not undermine the importance of other categories of ESCAP work, in particular technical assistance and capacity-building activities, which were crucial for the implementation of the Commission's main mandate to promote regional cooperation and action for inclusive and sustainable economic and social development. In that regard, the delegation indicated that those conclusions and recommendations remained valid and that it was necessary to have greater linkages between ESCAP research and analytical work and technical cooperation.

6. Delegations welcomed the establishment of clear quantitative indicators in response to recommendation 2 on improving the monitoring and evaluation of research and analysis work. In that connection, one delegation sought clarification on why OIOS had not reported on the results achieved in the light of those indicators and sought an update on progress made.

7. In respect of recommendation 3, information was sought on how ESCAP planned to create a single database as part of Umoja Extension 2 and the challenges and specific reasons for not merging the three contact databases as recommended by OIOS.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the OIOS report on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the programme evaluation of ESCAP.**

9. **The Committee commended ESCAP for the progress it had made in fully implementing three of the four recommendations set out in the OIOS report and recommended that the General Assembly encourage ESCAP to continue to implement the outstanding recommendation, to promote regional economic cooperation, to foster the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to boost the inclusive and sustainable economic and social development of the Asia-Pacific region.**

10. **The Committee noted the focus of the report on research and analysis and emphasized that ESCAP technical assistance and capacity-building activities were also crucial for the implementation of the Commission's main mandate to promote cooperation and action to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges to sustainable development.**

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Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development

(Item 4 (b))

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 5th meeting, on 5 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2018/9).

2. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the presentation and for the quality and comprehensiveness of the report.

4. Several delegations commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa on its work and on the achievement made in strengthening the coherence and coordination of United Nations system support for NEPAD, including in the context of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A delegation expressed support for the overall mission of NEPAD, deeming it an excellent example of an African solution to an African problem.

5. Several delegations voiced appreciation for the United Nations commitment to and support for the development of Africa, as well as for the achievements registered

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in the areas of infrastructure development; human capital development; governance, peace and security; agriculture and agroprocessing; industry, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; science and technology; and advocacy and outreach programmes.

6. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the efforts and initiatives of the African Union such as NEPAD and the Agenda 2063 action plan to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development, and reiterated their commitment to and support for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa. The importance of strengthening peace, security and development on the continent as a responsibility of African Member States, with the support of the international community, was emphasized.

7. A delegation stressed the importance of supporting the joint and integrated implementation of NEPAD, Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan, as well as the 2030 Agenda.

8. Several delegations emphasized the strengthened partnerships between the United Nations and the African Union with a view to enhancing coordination and cooperation in mobilizing support and resources at the global and regional levels for the joint implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. In that respect, the recently signed African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security were welcomed, as was the consolidation of the cluster system for the implementation of both Agendas.

9. In the context of the ongoing United Nations reforms, a delegation stressed the need to continue to place Africa at the centre of the efforts by the United Nations system and bodies to eradicate poverty, address the impact of climate change and ensure inclusive growth and sustainable development. A delegation noted the ongoing discussion on reform and expressed interest in the views of the Office of the Special Adviser on the potential impact in the areas of development, peace and security.

10. While delegations expressed broad support for the recommendations contained in the report, several areas were highlighted: (a) recommendations relating to trade, which were seen as pre-empting the role of the World Trade Organization and reinterpreting or impinging on its mandate; (b) recommendations relating to the transfer of technology without specifying whether that was to be done on voluntary and mutually agreed terms; and (c) recommendations that used the words "climate-smart agriculture" instead of the multilaterally agreed term "sustainable agriculture".

11. A delegation recalled that there was a long history in the United Nations relating to trade and the transfer of technology and a general understanding that they were broad channels to help the development of Africa. It was emphasized that trade and technology transfer were important for sustainable development.

12. A delegation noted that the next Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation would be held in September 2018 in Beijing. Another delegation noted that the next Tokyo International Conference on African Development would be held in 2019, with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa as a long-standing co-organizer.

13. The need to urgently mobilize adequate resources and the need for enhanced coordination and coherence among United Nations entities in support of the joint and integrated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda was underscored by several delegations. A delegation made reference to section III.E of the report and highlighted the comments made therein that resource constraints, weak inter-cluster collaboration and communication and the lack of an effective monitoring and

evaluation framework were major challenges for the full implementation of the business plans of the clusters and capacity-building support. A delegation emphasized the need for an effective monitoring and evaluation framework to enable a proper assessment of the United Nations and other stakeholder support for the implementation of NEPAD objectives, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

14. Several delegations noted the importance of domestic resource mobilization and combating illicit financial flows and emphasized that the strengthening of partnerships and South-South cooperation were also essential in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. A delegation also suggested that development partners honour their commitments.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. **The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 122 to 132, in a manner that was consistent with intergovernmental mandates.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to include, in future reports, detailed information relating to the possible outcomes of the achievements of NEPAD targets.**

17. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote greater coherence in their work in support of NEPAD, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and called upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the specific development needs of Africa into all its normative and operational activities, including the financing of programmes and projects, resource mobilization and humanitarian assistance.**

18. **The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly request the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, as the technical body of the African Union, and other structures of the African Union Commission and NEPAD in order to continue to support the United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027 and Agenda 2063.**

19. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly emphasize the need for the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to take into consideration the views, comments and/or input of regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, in their policy formulations and decision-making, mainly in the areas of mediation, conflict prevention and peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.**

20. **The Committee also recommended that the reports of the Secretary-General on NEPAD continue to include information not only on seminars, workshops and meetings but also on tangible actions and results in respect of United Nations system support for projects of the Partnership throughout Africa, while stressing that future reports should further focus on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership.**

21. **The Committee commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continue to include information on the**

activities undertaken by the Office in the areas of advocacy and analytical work, coherence and coordination and facilitation of intergovernmental deliberations relating to the provision of support by the United Nations system to the NEPAD agenda.

22. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in the context of his report on NEPAD, to include information on the activities undertaken to provide support to countries to address concerns regarding the protection of women and children, including from sexual violence.**

23. **The Committee emphasized the need for United Nations entities to continue their efforts in support of the region to address challenges relating to governance, youth unemployment, extremism and terrorism and recommended that the Secretary-General include information in that regard in his report.**

24. **The Committee recognized the important role of the development of infrastructure in Africa and recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize United Nations system support in that area, in the context of the initiatives of the regional economic communities.**

25. **The Committee emphasized the need for the continued implementation of activities relating to the monitoring mechanism and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continue to provide information in that regard.**

26. **The Committee noted with appreciation the continued partnership between the African Union and the United Nations and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to foster the coordinated implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the relevant organizations of the United Nations system.**

27. **The Committee noted the importance of the development of skills, the transfer and use of relevant technology and the provision of financial and technical resources in the adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change in Africa and emphasized that the transfer of relevant technology should be on mutually agreed terms and conditions.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. At its 10th meeting, on 12 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations from the programme evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (E/AC.51/2018/6).

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed support for UNHCR in its work of protecting and assisting refugees in increasingly complex situations. A delegation expressed the view that the work of UNHCR was an important part of the international commitment to strengthening peace, security and stability. Particular appreciation was expressed for the work undertaken with regard to the promotion of safe and durable solutions for persons of concern, namely, voluntary repatriation, resettlement and local integration. A delegation stressed the view that voluntary repatriations were a priority, in particular for protracted situations. Another delegation, reminding the Committee that

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refugees and migrants were at the heart of humanitarian action worldwide and that people were "risking their lives in floating funeral boxes", stressed that the true solution was the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Poverty reduction, so the delegation stressed, would bring about durable solutions upstream. A number of delegations commended the effective and collaborative working relationship that their Governments had with UNHCR, as well as the efforts of UNHCR to cooperate and coordinate with Governments and development partners.

4. Delegations acknowledged with appreciation the report of OIOS and the assessments made therein of UNHCR progress towards the implementation of recommendations on durable solutions. A delegation, while finding the report to be positive, questioned whether the design of the review had led to limitations on how UNHCR could actually be evaluated. A delegation also noted that there was no one-size-fits-all solution. Delegations commended UNHCR for fully implementing four recommendations (1–3 and 5) and partially implementing two (4 and 6). Delegations expressed appreciation for the steps that UNHCR had taken to implement the recommendations and strengthen its work on durable solutions. Several delegations cited the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, contained in General Assembly resolution 71/1, and expressed appreciation for its goals of working towards solutions from the outset of a displacement crisis, reducing burdens on host countries and sharing responsibilities with developed countries.

5. A delegation enquired whether UNHCR agreed with the conclusions of OIOS presented in paragraph 54 of the report, namely, that three important changes remained to be fully implemented: (a) continued and more systematic efforts were required in order to strengthen skills for creating, implementing and assessing solutions strategies; (b) the recently established Division of Resilience and Solutions had yet to be made operational which, once fully functional, could potentially plan and coordinate evaluation and research activities for solutions at the corporate level; and (c) there was a continued need to better organize and bring together documented experience around solutions in an easily accessible place.

6. A number of delegations questioned the focus of the evaluation on process rather than on impact and noted that assessments of impact would increase utility. It was also noted that, despite the significant progress made by UNHCR in implementing the recommendations, there had been little corresponding progress in durable solutions results, namely, a reduction in total numbers of persons of concern. Information was sought on how progress was measured in terms of finding durable solutions, what the statistical trends were with regard to returns in the past five years and whether there were any linkages with the implementation of recommendations by UNHCR. In that regard, a question was raised as to whether the work of OIOS was as useful as it could be. A delegation also questioned the utility and feasibility of some of the recommendations when it came to actual work on the ground, for example, the capacity-building activities related to recommendation 4, on developing a staff strategy for strengthening solution activities.

7. Delegations welcomed the decision of UNHCR to gradually adopt multi-year, multi-partner protection and solutions strategies and to introduce a multi-year planning tool for solutions-related activities in line with recommendation 1, on implementing multi-year planning and funding for solutions. A delegation expressed the view that multi-year planning should not, however, be an aim in and of itself, but a means to assist in addressing refugee issues.

8. Support was expressed for enhanced advocacy in accordance with recommendation 2, on developing advocacy strategies for solutions. Particular appreciation was expressed for the 10-year campaign to end statelessness and for the efforts of UNHCR in bolstering its partnerships, including with the World Bank. It

was hoped that such partnerships would expand the donor base. A delegation indicated that emerging countries of resettlement needed better information on their role.

9. In relation to recommendation 3, on enhancing partnerships with development actors, a delegation expressed the view that the humanitarian development approach required more careful consideration in conformity with the principle of origin. As regards the comprehensive refugee response framework, which was aimed at easing pressures on the host countries involved, enhancing refugee self-reliance and supporting conditions in countries of origin for return with safety and dignity, one delegation welcomed early successes in the practical application of the framework and another delegation urged UNHCR to provide a more detailed evaluation of applying the framework in the 13 pilot countries, with descriptions of results in each country. A delegation expressed the view that the framework focused disproportionately on its second goal, resilience, over the other solutions-related goals, and stressed that all goals needed to be implemented at the same pace.

10. As regards recommendation 5, on conducting an assessment of organizational structure for solutions, several delegations noted the creation of the new Division of Resilience and Solutions and a delegation expressed its agreement with the observation, made by OIOS, that UNHCR would need time to determine the full impact of the new structure. A few delegations noted that UNHCR was undertaking deeper structural and programmatic reforms, and expressed the hope that those reforms would enable UNHCR to fulfil its core mandate more effectively and efficiently. A delegation sought information on the structure of the Division and the number of its staff, including whether there had been an overall increase in the number of staff or whether staff had been redeployed from other departments and divisions. Information was also sought on whether the establishment of the Division had been agreed upon by Member States.

11. A delegation expressed appreciation for the work done by UNHCR in relation to recommendation 6, on creating an evidence-based portfolio for solutions, and requested that UNHCR continue to ensure its full implementation. The delegation also stressed the importance of being fully updated regarding the development and implementation of the activities of UNHCR in this regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the programme evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.**

13. **The Committee commended the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the progress that it had made in implementing the OIOS recommendations, and encouraged the High Commissioner to implement the outstanding actions identified by OIOS in the triennial review.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly recommend that, when carrying out its activities and implementing recommendations contained in the report of OIOS, UNHCR act fully in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin.**

15. **The Committee underlined that, whenever possible, evaluations should focus on measuring effective results and impacts and, in that regard, underlined the need for continued evaluation of how activities, measures and reforms undertaken by UNHCR concretely contributed to durable solutions to refugee situations.**

16. **The Committee noted with appreciation the implementation of recommendation 1 in the OIOS report, on the importance of multi-year planning and funding, and recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNHCR to strengthen its efforts in that field.**

17. **The Committee noted with appreciation the implementation of recommendation 2 in the OIOS report, and emphasized the importance of global advocacy tools in promoting durable solutions to refugee situations, including through focusing on voluntary sustainable and timely return in safety and dignity to countries of origin, which encompassed repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.**

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request UNHCR to provide Member States with details and analysis regarding the results of the pilot application of the comprehensive refugee response framework in 13 countries, as appropriate.**

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Addendum

Programme questions: programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2016–2017

(*Item 3 (a)*)

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2016–2017

1. At its 11th meeting, on 13 June 2018, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2016–2017 (A/73/77).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report and, together with other representatives, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations commended the Secretariat on its efforts in compiling the report, which provided an analysis of the implementation of 33,954 mandated and additional outputs under 36 sections of the programme budget. Appreciation was expressed for the comprehensiveness and usefulness of the report, which was submitted in accordance with regulation 6.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, providing a bird's-eye view of the progress made towards achieving the priorities of Member States. It was emphasized that the information contained therein was both results-based and output-oriented and included challenges faced by the Secretariat. The report was also recognized as a useful tool for ensuring accountability.

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4. Concerns were raised as to the overall rate of implementation of mandated outputs of 93 per cent in the biennium 2016–2017, which reflected a reduction of 1 per cent compared with the previous biennium. A delegation sought clarification on the impact of that reduction on all bodies. Questions were raised as to the low implementation rates of outputs by specific departments and offices, in particular the Office of Central Support Services, where, it was noted, a number of mandated outputs had been terminated. A delegation expressed concern over the data presented on the termination of activities, according to which 57 per cent of cases were linked to legislative mandates, 40 per cent to programmatic reasons, only 3 per cent to a lack of extrabudgetary funding and less than 1 per cent to vacancies in the Secretariat, and stated that one of the Organization's main priorities in the area of programme planning related to fine-tuning the work of legislative bodies of the Secretariat. A delegation noted in particular that there were sections of the budget where the implementation rate was less than 90 per cent, including section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, where it was 62 per cent. A delegation found the explanation of work having been shifted to another section of the budget to be unacceptable.

5. A delegation asked how the Secretariat accorded priority to its activities relating to implementing more than 30,000 outputs, in particular those initiated at its own discretion. Another delegation sought further information on the impact of the implementation of specific outputs such as brochures and publications and on the types of output implemented as part of technical cooperation, together with information on how the Secretariat measured such impact.

6. Regarding paragraph 12, concerning political affairs, a delegation, noting the activities covered under the four programmes, namely political affairs, peacekeeping operations, disarmament and the peaceful uses of outer space, asked why information on the activities of special political missions had been omitted after having been included in previous reports.

7. In reference to paragraph 98 of the report, relating to the final statement on the delivery of outputs and resource utilization, several delegations raised concerns regarding funding through extrabudgetary resources, noting that outputs in all categories were delivered using a total of 152,061 work-months, of which 62 per cent were financed from the regular budget and 38 per cent from extrabudgetary resources, as in the previous biennium, which was not a welcome trend. It was emphasized that an increasing reliance on extrabudgetary resources posed a risk to multilateralism and that it came with a price, in that it hindered an impartial assessment of the work of the Organization. A delegation noted that the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which had been established pursuant to a General Assembly resolution, had yet to achieve a meaningful level of funding under the regular budget as the number of its posts funded by extrabudgetary resources exceeded those funded by the regular budget. That delegation further questioned how the work of any department could be assessed when much of it was performed using extrabudgetary resources. A concern was also raised as to the tendency towards a high dependence on consultants, which accounted for 28 per cent of the work-months funded from extrabudgetary resources, with clarification sought on the reasons therefor. A delegation noted that the donors that provided extrabudgetary resources were the same as those that continued to propose a reduction in assessed contributions.

8. Regarding the information on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolutions on administrative and budgetary matters contained in the annex to the report, questions were raised as to who determined that status, in particular whether the determination was self-certified by the lead department or whether an independent body pronounced itself thereon.

9. A delegation noted with appreciation the level of outputs implemented under section 2, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and expressed concern over the challenges faced by the Department owing to the pressure upon it as a result of the overlap in the sessions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. That delegation, voicing further concern about the increased workload that the Department would face owing to the annualization of the budget cycle, emphasized the need for support to be extended to the Department by ensuring that sufficient resources were made available for it to keep the budgetary process flowing smoothly and on time.

10. A delegation commended the Secretariat on its efforts to reduce the total number of pages printed over the past few years and the resulting efficiency gains. It was noted that the number of pages printed in New York, Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna had declined significantly, from 726 million in 2008 to 188 million in 2017, and, in that regard, the Secretariat was encouraged to make further reductions so as to shrink its environmental footprint.

11. Referring to the information contained in paragraph 21 of the report that the Office of Legal Affairs had defended the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, its assets and its staff worldwide and resolved claims against the Organization in the amount of $183.4 million for $11.3 million, a delegation sought clarification as to how that significant reduction had been achieved and wished to know what types of claim had been made and the measures that were planned to mitigate future such claims.

12. With regard to the relatively higher number of outputs added at the initiative of the Secretariat in response to the needs of the region under section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, compared with those added through legislation, a view was expressed that such additions could be attributed to poor planning.

13. Regarding section 24, Human rights, a delegation observed that the issue of geographical representation in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights remained acute, pointing out that staff members at the D-2 and D-1 levels were predominantly from Western countries. A delegation indicated that the programme of work under the section had been conducted fully in line with the programme plan adopted by the Committee and expressed the hope that in the future there would be a genuine and meaningful discussion of the human rights programme.

14. Regarding section 25, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, covering the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), some delegations objected to the reference in the report to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, stressing that there was no consensus on the matter. Serious concern was raised over the carrying out of non-consensual activities and the use of non-consensual terms in the reports submitted to the Committee, given that there were more commonly agreed terms to describe people in vulnerable situations. A number of other delegations expressed support for the use of such terminology, stating that the terms were in common usage and did not require intergovernmental approval. Regarding the use of those terms in the report in relation to a learning programme developed in 2017, on the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, a delegation was of the view that that usage was entirely appropriate as it was a statement of fact on a programme conducted by UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration. Another delegation recalled that the Committee had discussed the same issue at length two years previously, observing that, following that discussion, in line with such resolutions of the Human Rights Council as resolutions 17/19, 27/32 and 32/2, it was evident that the activities of UNHCR in that regard were fully in line with its mandate.

15. While noting that, in general, UNHCR continued to perform its functions successfully and effectively, especially in the area of assisting States and enhancing their role in addressing refugee problems, a delegation was of the view that UNHCR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had undertaken activities that were not aligned with the mandates provided to them, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and noted that some of the strategic priorities included a focus on corruption, the environment and digital technology, while overlooking technological cooperation, combating racism and xenophobia and other human rights issues.

16. Appreciation was also expressed for efforts under section 27, Humanitarian assistance, in terms of providing administrative support and other resources for ReliefWeb and in advancing the principles guiding the provision of humanitarian assistance, as well as the facilities for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. A delegation noted that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs continued to effectively carry out functions in dealing with refugee-related issues. A delegation, in referring to General Assembly resolution 72/133 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/14 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, raised concerns about the inclusion of information in the report on the implementation of the Agenda for Humanity (paras. 49 and 822), emphasizing that Member States had not provided the Office with a mandate to implement the Agenda, nor to report on any follow-up action in that regard.

17. A delegation highlighted the completion of an International Public Sector Accounting Standards-compliant financial report and audited financial statements for the United Nations for 2015 (para. 55) and for the United Nations peacekeeping operations for 2015/16 using Umoja as one of the fundamental achievements made during the biennium and encouraged the Secretariat to move forward in that regard so as to achieve a more transparent way of managing its work. With regard to information contained in the report that, under section 29B, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Office had been responsible for more than 60 per cent of all Umoja processes, a delegation asked where the responsibility for the remaining 40 per cent rested.

Conclusions and recommendations

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2016–2017** (A/73/77).

19. **The Committee stressed the importance of the Secretariat using programme performance reporting as a management tool in the programme planning process, in line with the principles of results-based management, including by regularly reviewing programme performance.**

20. **The Committee expressed its appreciation for the information provided in the programme performance report, in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and underlined the importance of such information continuing to be provided in the future.**

21. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly urge the Secretary-General to ensure the timely presentation of reports, in line with the relevant regulations and rules.**

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Addendum

Coordination questions: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

(*Item 4 (a)*)

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2017

1. At its 4th meeting, on 5 June 2018, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2017 (E/2018/48).

2. The Secretary of CEB introduced the report and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the comprehensive and detailed report, which was recognized as an effective means of enhancing the transparency of the activities and accountability of CEB. Consideration of the annual report by the Committee was seen as an important opportunity to engage with the work of the Board. Delegations stressed the need for transparency with regard to the activities of CEB and recognized that efforts to engage with Member States had been demonstrated through substantive dialogues and briefings, as well as the sharing of information through the CEB website. In particular, the publication of system-wide financial and human resources data was highlighted as a contribution to increasing transparency. Attention was also drawn to the online United Nations System Data Catalog, which provided a single point of access to thematic data spanning the United

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Nations system. The Board was urged to continue to make further efforts to promote effective cooperation with Member States and to ensure transparency and accountability.

4. Delegations broadly recognized and expressed support for the important role played by CEB in strengthening system-wide policy coherence and coordination, avoiding duplication of effort, increasing efficiency and optimizing the use of resources, especially with regard to United Nations system support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and follow-up to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. CEB was urged to continue to strengthen the collective capacities of United Nations system entities to support Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In that context, it was stressed that poverty eradication was at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and, therefore, should also be central to the work of CEB, along with the achievement of the other Sustainable Development Goals. CEB was also seen to have a role in helping to achieve Member States' vision for United Nations reform.

5. Several delegations stressed the importance of continuing to ensure that the work of the Board was guided by intergovernmental mandates and supported the priorities of Member States. Specifically, it was recalled that the high-level political forum on sustainable development was a source of political leadership in the promotion of sustainable development and that the Board must take into account guidance provided by it. Clarification was sought about the functioning of CEB as a coordination mechanism rather than as an implementing body.

6. The strategic leadership of CEB in the programmatic area was recognized. Delegations welcomed the United Nations System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action and acknowledged the contributions of CEB to sustainable development through the promulgation of an analytical framework on risk and resilience and a United Nations system leadership framework. The role of the United Nations System Staff College in supporting the adoption and implementation of the leadership framework was noted.

7. Delegations broadly expressed support for the consideration by CEB of the contribution of technological innovation to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Taking systematic measures to leverage the opportunities offered by technology, including information and communications technology, was seen to be in the interest of all Member States. Efforts to enhance and strengthen United Nations system capacity to help countries to apply technology to achieve the Goals were welcomed. A few delegations, however, said that the focus on technology demonstrated an overly selective approach to the 2030 Agenda and that the report appeared to favour some aspects and ignore or dilute others. In that regard, it was stressed that CEB must respect intergovernmental mandates agreed upon by Member States. Another delegation said that, given the particularly expansive scope of the work of CEB, it was difficult to give equal weight to all activities in a single report. A delegation suggested that it was premature to develop new normative guidance on frontier technologies and innovation as Member States had not yet had the opportunity to discuss the issue. It was also suggested that CEB further explore the potential role of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism established under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to harness technology for sustainable development, and the view was expressed that the report would have benefited from including information to that effect.

8. A delegation attached particular importance to the Board's monitoring of the system-wide follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, expressing support for efforts

to reduce poverty aimed at graduation from the least developed country category. While it was noted that CEB would continue to focus on the most vulnerable, including the least developed countries, it was proposed that CEB also consider the challenges confronting middle-income countries in their pursuit of sustainable development. The aim would be to raise awareness of the roles of United Nations organizations and promote system-wide coordination in assisting that group of more than 100 countries to meet the Goals.

9. With regard to management and administration, it was recognized that CEB and its subsidiary machinery were uniquely positioned to leverage the strengths and expertise of the United Nations system to implement improvements in human resources, finance, procurement and other management functions. Appreciation was expressed for the achievements of the High-level Committee on Management in improving efficiency in those areas. Delegations encouraged the High-level Committee to continue to work on mutual recognition and harmonization of business practices with a view to realizing further efficiencies and continuing to improve effectiveness across the system.

10. In particular, delegations voiced support for the continuation of efforts to enhance mutual recognition and harmonization in procurement. Several welcomed the increased number of vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition registered with the United Nations Global Marketplace. Information was requested on any plans for new procurement principles and other joint procurement activities.

11. Several delegations commended the Board on its efforts to address sexual harassment within the organizations of the United Nations system through the task force led by the Chair of the High-level Committee on Management and expressed support for the Board's continued prioritization of that initiative, urging bold and frank action. It was stressed that sexual exploitation and abuse was not simply a human resources management issue; rather, it had fundamental implications for the credibility of the Organization and therefore required the attention and commitment of all United Nations system executive heads. Similarly, delegations expressed appreciation for the system-wide determination to combat sexual exploitation and abuse that had been championed by the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through the United Nations system-wide strategy on gender parity, should also continue.

12. Delegations widely commended the High-level Committee on Management on its work to support multilingualism, welcoming, among other things, the adoption of both the Akoma Ntoso Extensible Markup Language standard for the United Nations documentation environment and of a United Nations semantic interoperability framework, which was expected to lead to considerable efficiencies in document management and translation processes, as well as greater accessibility for persons with disabilities. Those efforts were seen as important for the General Assembly. The development of a strategic policy framework on multilingualism was expected to serve as a benchmark for other United Nations entities in their efforts to raise the profile of multilingualism.

13. A delegation welcomed the adoption by the High-level Committee on Management of a single agreed definition across the United Nations system of what constituted fraud and suspected or presumptive fraud, expressing the hope that it would help in the development of effective counter-fraud policies.

14. In the context of operational activities for development, the Board's decision to take the United Nations Development Group outside the CEB architecture was noted. The view was expressed that the new generation of United Nations Development

Assistance Frameworks must remain centred on sustainable development and that development should not be mixed with the humanitarian, human rights or sustaining peace dimensions. A delegation said that such a nexus approach was not in line with General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

15. Citing General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, hope was expressed that the new resident coordinator system would further improve cooperation between Governments and United Nations country teams. Clarification was sought on the new system-wide cost-sharing arrangement to support the reinvigorated development system.

16. With regard to coordination between CEB and other jointly financed bodies, the Board's cooperation with the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) was welcomed, with CEB encouraged to maintain it as a priority. A delegation underscored the need for the Secretary-General, as Chair of CEB, to continue to use CEB as a forum to ensure the full, uniform and timely implementation of ICSC and General Assembly decisions on the common system. The Board's support for the work of the Joint Inspection Unit was also welcomed. Furthermore, the efforts of the Task Force on Accounting Standards to sustain compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards were recognized.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the annual overview report of CEB for 2017 (E/2018/48).**

18. **The Committee welcomed the continued contributions of CEB, delivered within the existing mandates of its member organizations, throughout 2017 on United Nations system-wide coherence, coordination, effectiveness, efficiency and accountability.**

19. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to include in the reports of CEB to the Committee information on action taken on the wide range of programmatic, management and operational issues linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure coordinated United Nations system-wide support in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

20. **The Committee reiterated its recommendations to the General Assembly to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to ensure that the Board's activities and initiatives, including those relating to system-wide coherence, which also encompassed the principle of voluntary adoption of the "Delivering as one" approach, as defined in General Assembly resolution 71/243, were fully in line with intergovernmental mandates.**

21. **The Committee underlined that United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, while being risk-informed, must preserve their focus on sustainable development and be elaborated and implemented in accordance with national ownership.**

22. **The Committee recognized the continued efforts of CEB to enhance collaboration on procurement activities, including increasing the opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue his efforts in that regard.**

23. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to remind the executive heads of the participating organizations of the need to ensure enhanced alignment of the measures of the High-level Committee on Management with the existing United Nations legislative framework.**

24. **The Committee highlighted that effectively addressing sexual harassment had fundamental implications for the credibility of the United Nations system and in that regard welcomed the zero-tolerance policy put in place by the Secretary-General, recommending that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to urge all United Nations system organizations to make the issue a matter of priority.**

25. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to urge all common system organizations to ensure the full, uniform and timely implementation of all the decisions of ICSC and the General Assembly.**